

Vinnie was first elected to the general assembly in 1980 to represent the 120th District in Stratford. In the following years, he went on to become one of the highest ranking leaders of the House of Representatives. After the 1990 election he was appointed as an assistant house minority leader and for the 1995 and 1996 sessions, he served as deputy house minority leader. During his tenure in the legislature, Vinnie developed a reputation for consistency and thoroughness. His ability to master details led to his appointment to serve as cochair of the regulation review committee. In addition, he served as dean of the insurance and real estate committee and also served on the executive and legislative nominations committee and the joint committee on legislative management.

Vinnie's experience and skill as a legislator led to several initiatives of which he is particularly proud. He has worked on legislation dealing with health and auto insurance reform, welfare reform, and the protection of Long Island Sound. In 1996 he cosponsored legislation which resulted in the removal of tolls from Interstate 95 and the Marritt and Wilbur Cross parkways and the largest tax cut in Connecticut history. These successes underscore the need for legislators that bring a sense of personal and moral responsibility to politics. For 16 years, Vinnie never forgot the reason he went to Hartford: to serve. He has remained a consistent champion for his constituents and a true public servant. He has said,

The greatest honor of my years of service has not been the awards or plaques that I have received from various groups, but the simple "thank you" from a constituent I was able to assist. For that is what public service is all about, helping people.

Throughout his legislative career, Vincent has brought common sense and concern for people to the general assembly. His contributions and efforts will be greatly missed. I have long relied on Vinnie's hard-won wisdom and insightful advice. We have worked together to protect Stratford's environment and to fight for jobs for Stratford's citizens. I will continue to seek his counsel as long as I am in Congress. It is my pleasure to join Vincent's family friends, and citizens of the town of Stratford in wishing him well as he leaves the State house of representatives and begins a new chapter in his life.

A TRIBUTE TO THE SHELTER ISLAND POST OFFICE'S 150TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. MICHAEL P. FORBES

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 4, 1996

Mr. FORBES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the Shelter Island Post Office, located on Shelter Island, Long Island, NY, that this year is celebrating its 150th anniversary of dedicated service to the residents of this island.

Many communities pay little attention to their local post office, beyond receiving and sending mail, but that is not the case with Shelter Island. Since its creation in 1846, the Shelter Island Post Office has been the focal point of the island community, between the North and South Forks of eastern Long Island.

Separated by water from family, friends, and business partners, for 150 years the local post office was Shelter Island's link with the outside world. Every day, except Sundays, for the past 150 years island residents gather at their post office to pick up their mail, visit with friends and neighbors, and discuss the latest local news.

The Shelter Island Post Office quickly became the town's central meeting place, like the town square of a New England Village. It was the post office where most islanders learned of new births and recent deaths, graduations, new businesses, and new neighbors. If the local baymen who plied the surrounding Peconic Bay for fish, lobsters, scallops, and clams were having a successful season, they would hear of it at the post office.

During its 150 years, the Shelter Island Post Office has moved around the downtown area several times. It was chased from its original site that it shared with a blacksmith, cobbler, butcher, and country store. After a fire destroyed the building in 1891, the post office moved across the street to Duvall's Corner. The old mail drop slot is still at the old Gibbs Home. After another move, the post office settled in its present location in 1960.

During its 150 years, the Shelter Island Post Office has been led by several dedicated postmasters. Perhaps most impressive among them was Archibald Havens, who took over for the original postmaster in 1848 and remained through 1893. Civil War veteran Elias Havens Payne took over next and stayed through 1915; Alice Sherman ran the office for 22 years and Melva Sherman, mother of current Shelter Island Town Supervisor Huson Sherman, was postmaster from 1967-74.

At a special anniversary celebration on August 24, Postmaster Estelle Simes postmarked each letter with a special, significant design of a Long Island Osprey, a majestic seahawk that is indigenous to Shelter Island. The anniversary postmark is a pen and ink drawing done by Island artist Carol Wilson. Current Postmaster Estelle Simes even has available an anniversary cachet depicting the original post office building. A great deal of time has passed since it first opened in 1846, but the important role that the Shelter Island Post Office serves in its community has not changed. I join all Shelter Island residents in saluting its post office as it heads into its next 150 years of outstanding service to local residents.

CONGRATULATIONS TO RHODE ISLAND'S WESTERN CRANSTON LITTLE LEAGUE

HON. JACK REED

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 4, 1996

Mr. REED. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Rhode Island's Western Cranston Little League team, winners of the Little League National Championship.

Western Cranston was comprised of 14 players: Lucas Ashton, Jacob Bazirgan, Brett Bell, Lewis Colby, Evan DiZoglio, Christopher Gallo, Matt Lovejoy, Michael Luke, Tom Michael, Jonathan Sparling, Peter Spinelli, Craig Stinson, Ricky Stoddard, and Paul Tavarozzi. Under the guidance of coaches Mike Varrato, Nick DiNezza, Larry Lapore, and Benny

Marandola, these 14 young men quickly transformed into a championship team.

On July 24, the Western Cranston Little Leaguers were among 7,000 teams playing in 83 countries on 6 continents, beginning a quest for the Little League World Series. On August 25, 3 cities, 16 games, and 1 Little League National Championship later, Western Cranston returned home to a hero's welcome, when over 7,000 Rhode Islanders packed Cranston Stadium to congratulate them.

That this Nation's smallest State could produce its best Little League team is a tribute to the spirit of Rhode Islanders, as well as the teamwork and never-say-die attitude of these 14 young men. With the help of their families and coaches and the support of Rhode Island, Western Cranston traveled to Williamsport, PA and achieved what was unthinkable just a month before. They inspired a nation and brought immeasurable pride and joy to their State.

Today, I am indeed proud to say that my home town of Cranston is the home of the Little League National Champions. Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in saluting the Western Cranston Little League team.

IN HONOR OF FRED CASTRO AND HIS 32 YEARS OF DEDICATED PUBLIC SERVICE

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 4, 1996

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to recognize the exceptional dedication of Mr. Fred Castro, a dedicated member of the Park and Recreation Commission. Fred has given over 32 years of outstanding service to the residents of California's 13th Congressional District.

Fred Castro was born in Modesto and grew up in Oakland. As a young man, he joined the Navy and was stationed at Pearl Harbor when it was bombed. He served his country in the Pacific for the remainder of World War II. When he returned, he married his wife Lorraine on March 3, 1946. Fred also served during the Korean conflict, returning to the Bay Area to work in the shipyards at Mare Island, Hunters Point, and the Naval Supply Center in Oakland.

Fred and Lorraine have lived in Union City since the early 1960's. In 1964, Fred was appointed to the first Parks and Recreation Commission in Union City by Mayor Will Davis. Since then, Fred Castro has tirelessly served our community for the past 32 years. The 17 parks and 2 community centers in Union City were all developed during Fred Castro's years of service to the 13th district. Fred worked to put together the bond measure in 1968 to build the Kennedy Center, and he was the chair of the dedication ceremony for the Holly Center.

Throughout his career, Fred continued to promote parks and recreation through his involvement with the California Association of Parks and Recreation Commissioners and Board Members. Not only was he on the board for many years, but he was president in 1990. In addition to his continued support to our community, Fred also found time to represent commissioners and board members on